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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Vienna
19-30 July 1999

Provisional agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Statement by the President of the Conference.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda.
5. Establishment of the committees and election of other officers.
6. General exchange of views.
7. Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment.
8. Status and applications of space science and technology:
   (a) The environment and natural resources and remote sensing;
   (b) Navigation, positioning and location systems;
   (c) Review of space communications and applications.
9. Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building:
   (a) Assessment of basic space sciences and their benefits;
   (b) Education and training.
10. Information needs and the global approach:
    (a) Research needs;
    (b) Application needs;
    (c) Integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems.
11. Economic and societal benefits:
    (a) Secondary applications of space technology;

(b) Ways and means of increasing the economic efficiency of space technology and its applications;

(c) Promotion of the commercial benefits of space activities;

(d) Ways and means of promoting international cooperation.

12. Promotion of international cooperation.

13. Activities of the Technical Forum.

14. Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan.

15. Closing of the Conference.

II. Annotations*

1. Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISCPACE III)

The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) will be convened at the Austria Center Vienna on Monday, 19 July 1999, at 10 a.m.

2. Election of the President of the Conference

In accordance with the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference will elect its President.

3. Statement by the President of the Conference

Following the election, the President of the Conference will make a brief statement, providing background and describing the objectives of the Conference.

4. Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda

The provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.184/2, annex) have been recommended for adoption, as approved by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference[1] and by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998.

The provisional agenda set out in the present document is based on General Assembly resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee as contained in its report on the work of its 1997 session[2] and the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations. (An indicative schedule of work is contained in annex I to the present document.)

5. Establishment of the committees and election of other officers

In accordance with rules 4 and 5 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference shall establish two Main Committees, Committee I and Committee II, as well as a Technical Forum

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Conference.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), annex.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), para. 150.

as a technical body of the Conference. (A list of activities of the Technical Forum relevant to agenda items of the Conference is contained in annex II.)

In accordance with rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed by the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-third session.[3] The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

In accordance with the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference will elect its other officers.

6. General exchange of views

Statements by Member States will be limited to 10 minutes.

In accordance with rule 14 of the provisional rules of procedure, organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall be permitted to deliver general statements in the Plenary limited to seven minutes. The full texts of such statements may be circulated in writing.

7. Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment

Reports of international organizations, programmes and initiatives, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

Discussions will cover the latest scientific understanding of the nature and characteristics of climate change, highlighting information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; the state of the environment, with emphasis on broad-scale changes in land use and land cover, atmospheric pollution and related issues (including the latest understanding of ozone), availability of and changes in surface water and related topics; and the state of knowledge on weather forecasting, atmospheric dynamics and severe storms.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 57-80;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 7.

8. Status and applications of space science and technology

In reviewing items 8 (a)-(c), special attention will be paid to the scientific and technological developments that have taken place, taking into account the interests of all countries, in particular developing countries, with regard to global, regional and national issues.

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[3] The members of the Credentials Committee appointed at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly are China, Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

(a) The environment and natural resources and remote sensing

(i) Disaster preparation, warning and mitigation

Discussions will concern the state of knowledge of the use of remote sensing for disaster planning, including the ability to predict hurricanes, other severe weather events, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes and the means by which such information can help in measuring damage from natural disasters and in assisting local officials in planning response and mitigation. There would be a discussion on the use of remote sensing techniques in assessing the condition of fire fuels and in monitoring and fighting fires.

(ii) Detection and mitigation of environmental hazards

Discussions will focus on the use of remote sensing for detecting and tracking pollution (both atmospheric and surface), including the latest applications for hazardous waste clean-up, as well as ozone depletion and the development of ultraviolet monitoring and warning systems.

(iii) Coastal degradation/management

Discussions will cover the use of remote sensing for monitoring the condition and possible degradation of marshland and coastal areas. The use of information on ocean colour for coastal management will also be discussed.

(iv) Seasonal-to-annual climate prediction

There will be a discussion of how scientific prediction of climate phenomena such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation affect agricultural, fishery and disaster management planning. An update will be given on the state of understanding and means by which information may best be shared. A discussion may be held on international activities in climate prediction.

(v) Agricultural enhancements

Discussion will focus on how remote sensing observations may increasingly be used to help improve agricultural planning, including in areas such as pesticide use, crop rotation, growth rates, control of infestation and precision farming. There will also be an update on uses of remote sensing to measure and forecast drought and desertification.

(vi) Resource management and planning

Discussion will cover the use of remote sensing in managing natural resources such as forests, grazing lands, wildlife and fisheries, as well as in decision-making related to urban planning and land use.

(vii) Freshwater management

Discussion will cover the use of remote sensing for the management of freshwater resources and the detection of contamination, depletion and so on.

(viii) Global health, including infectious diseases, their mitigation and prevention

There will be a discussion on the uses of remote sensing for the detection of infectious diseases and infestations and how the data gathered may be used to prevent the spread of disease and/or to identify environmental factors that could prevent the occurrence of disease.

(b) Navigation, positioning and location systems

(i) Availability of services

Discussion will concern improved ways of ensuring continuity in the availability of satellite-based position, location and navigational services, taking into account existing and planned cooperative and global navigational satellite systems.

(ii) *Enhanced capability*

There will be a discussion on enhancing international cooperation in satellite-based search and rescue systems, including development of common standards for ship and aircraft locator beacons, as well as on the use of microwave systems for geophysical studies and oceanographic research.

(iii) *Emerging applications*

There will be a discussion of the various uses of satellite-based position location services for scientific research, such as crustal dynamics, volcanology and other applications.

(c) Review of space communications and applications

Presentations will examine the capability of space systems to enhance existing systems and to improve communication infrastructure and will also review advances in space communications and their applications.

(i) *Cooperation in the planning, design, operation and utilization of satellite communication and broadcasting systems*

(ii) *The uses of mobile satellite communications and other new technologies, including low-cost, light-weight satellites in non-geostationary orbits*

(iii) *Other uses of satellite-based systems, notably for tele-education, tele-medicine and family welfare and emergency communications*

(iv) *Technical aspects of direct transnational broadcasting by satellite*

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 81-144 for agenda item 8 (a), paragraphs 167-183 for item 8 (b) and paragraphs 145-166 for item 8 (c);

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 8.

9. Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building

(a) Assessment of basic space sciences and their benefits

(b) Education and training

A discussion will be held on the efforts currently under way to use space information and knowledge to advance the state and quality of education. Areas of emphasis will include teacher training, the development of current materials, the use of distance learning and mass literacy and mechanisms for greater international cooperation in educational efforts. There will be updates on international activities, such as the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme and activities of the International Space University and the European International Space Year, and a report from the special session on environmental education of the International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, as well as comments from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

There will also be a discussion on the education of engineers, scientists and technicians in developing countries in the design and manufacture of space systems. Emphasis will be placed on the action necessary to establish a critical mass of experts to undertake those activities.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 184-225;

(b) The report of the Space Generation Forum, containing its recommendations for consideration by the Conference for inclusion in its report;

(c) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 9.

10. Information needs and the global approach

(a) Research needs

There will be a discussion on the research information and capabilities required to address critical questions (such as global change, desertification, biodiversity and deforestation). The need for a global approach to such research, focusing on the needs of developing countries (i.e. scientific collaboration, data exchange and infrastructure issues), will also be examined.

(b) Applications needs

Discussion will cover the type of information and capabilities needed to address applications issues and an assessment of how current systems are meeting those needs. The focus will be on the types of information needed by developing countries to address pressing issues and the means by which that information can be acquired.

(c) Integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems

There will be a discussion of the integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems and transfer standards and presentations on innovative projects demonstrating that capability. Updates will be provided on the latest efforts to incorporate geographic information systems into local and regional planning.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 234-251;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 10.

11. Economic and societal benefits

(a) Secondary applications of space technology

(i) Potential uses of space for manufacturing specialized and/or unique products and materials

(ii) Industrial and commercial applications of spin-offs from space technologies

(b) Ways and means of increasing the economic efficiency of space technology and its applications

There will be a discussion on how space technology can be "spun off" in order to benefit people's lives and well-being more directly. The routes to greater economic efficiency will also be covered.

(c) Promotion of the commercial benefits of space activities

Discussion will centre on the means by which space technology and observations can best be converted to commercial applications.

(i) Design, development and use of mini- and micro-satellites for space research

(ii) Reliable and affordable access to space, including the case of human space flight

(d) Ways and means of promoting international cooperation

Documents:

Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 252-289;

Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 11.

12. Promotion of international cooperation

There will be a review of existing and new mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities and consideration of ways and means of enhancing coordination and cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the organizations of its system and other existing international programmatic and scientific organizations. There will be, *inter alia*, a panel discussion among major international organizations (the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and others) on how they might facilitate increased multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

There will be a review of the current status of the law of outer space, including ways and means of encouraging wider adherence to the existing international space treaties and principles.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 290-342;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 12.

13. Activities of the Technical Forum

The Chairman of the Technical Forum will report to the Plenary of the Conference on the results and proposals made by various workshops, seminars, forums and symposia organized within the framework of the Technical Forum.

14. Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan

The Conference will consider the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.184/3) and the reports of its plenary and subsidiary bodies.

15. Closing of the Conference

Annex I

Indicative schedule of work

	Agenda item		
Date	*Plenary* *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Monday, 19 July			
10 a.m.-12 noon	1 Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) 2 Election of the President of the Conference 3 Statement by the President of the Conference 4 Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda 5 Establishment of the committees and election of other officers 6 General exchange of views		
3-6 p.m.	6 General exchange of views		
Tuesday, 20 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.	6 General exchange of views		8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Wednesday, 21 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 3-6 p.m.	6 General exchange of views	7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	

Date	Agenda item		
	Plenary *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Thursday, 22 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon	6 General exchange of views	7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	
3-6 p.m.		7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Friday, 23 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 3-6 p.m.		9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Monday, 26 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.		10 Information needs and the global approach	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Tuesday, 27 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		10 Information needs and the global approach	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits
Wednesday, 28 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits

	Agenda item		
Date	*Plenary* *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Thursday, 29 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits
and			
3-6 p.m.	13 Activities of the Technical Forum	9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	
	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
Friday, 30 July			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
3-6 p.m.	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
	15 Closing of the Conference		

Annex II

List of activities of the Technical Forum relevant to agenda items

(Vienna International Center and Austria Center Vienna)

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
7	Scientific Forum on Climate Variability and Global Change	Tuesday, 20 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	International Forum on the Integrated Global Observing Strategy	Wednesday, 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites: Workshop on Meteorological Satellite Systems	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on "Blue Planet, Green Planet"	Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
8	Workshop on Resource Mapping from Space	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Disaster Management	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Remote Sensing for the Detection, Monitoring and Mitigation of Natural Disasters	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Seminar on Environment and Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development	Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Seminar on Global Health	Friday, 23 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Round Table on Tele-education	Friday, 23 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Telemedicine	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on the Application of New Earth Observation Data	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
9	Special Environmental Symposium: "Preserving the Astronomical Sky"	Monday-Friday, 12-16 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. each day

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
9	Special Workshop on Education	Tuesday and Wednesday, 20 and 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. both days Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Round Table on the Integration of Earth Observation into Secondary Education	Wednesday, 21 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Symposium on Recent Progress and Future Plans for Exploration of the Solar System	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Symposium on the Contribution of Space Techniques to the Exploration of the Universe	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Space Debris	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Mars Exploration	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Observations of Near-Earth Objects	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Life Science Activities on the International Space Station	Wednesday, 28 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
10	Workshop on Geospatial Data Access	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
11	Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Developing Indigenous Earth Observation Industrial Capabilities in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Session on International Standardization for Space Systems	Tuesday, 27 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Clean and Inexhaustible Space Solar Power	Tuesday, 27 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
12	Workshop on Managing Space Programmes in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 20 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	High-level space industry panel: "Harnessing Space for Development and Exploration—A Global Vision for the Twenty-first Century"	Tuesday, 20 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m.

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
12	Session on the results of the 5th International Cooperation in Space Workshop: "International Space Cooperation: Solving Global Problems"	Tuesday, 20 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Forum on Space Activities in the Twenty-first Century	Wednesday, 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Panel of space agency and industry heads on the theme of the Conference	Wednesday and Thursday, 21 and 22 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m. each day
	Round Table on Cooperation and International Competition	Friday, 23 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in Space	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Space Law in the Twenty-first Century	Tuesday-Saturday, 20-24 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. (no afternoon meeting on Saturday, 24 July)

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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Provisional rules of procedure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, agreed that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations.

2. The annex to the present note contains the text of the provisional rules of procedure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, recommended by the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session and endorsed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998, which shall be forwarded for adoption by the Conference.

V.99-80228 (E)

Annex

Provisional rules of procedure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Contents

		Rules	Page
I.	Scope of the rules	1	3
II.	Representation of Member States	2-3	3
III.	Structure of the Conference	4-6	4
IV.	Officers	7	5
V.	Opening of the Conference	8-9	5
VI.	Decision-making	10	6
VII.	Languages and records	11-13	6
VIII.	Other participants and observers	14-16	7
IX.	Suspension of and amendments to the rules of procedure	17-18	8

I. Scope of the rules

Application of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly

Rule 1

Any matter arising at the Conference, which is convened as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members of the United Nations, which is not covered by these rules shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

II. Representation of Member States

Composition of delegations

Rule 2

1. The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives, advisers, experts or persons of similar status, including those from space-related industries, as are deemed necessary or desirable.

2. The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of Credentials and Provisional Participation

Rule 3

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the secretariat of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the secretariat of the Conference.

2. A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its most recent session. The Credentials Committee shall elect its own officers, including a Chairman and such other officers as it may consider necessary. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

3. Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

III. Structure of the Conference

Main Committees

Rule 4

The Conference shall establish two Main Committees, Committee I [*title to be determined*] and Committee II [*title to be determined*]. Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on each Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Main Committees such alternative representatives and advisers as may be required.

Technical Forum

Rule 5

1. In addition to the Main Committees, the Conference shall establish a Technical Forum as a technical body of the Conference. The Technical Forum will deal with technical presentations relating to the agenda of the Conference, as well as additional components of the Conference, such as workshops and seminars, poster sessions, a space exhibition and public evening lectures. The Conference may, in addition, request that any substantive agenda item be dealt with in the Technical Forum.

2. The Technical Forum shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Technical Forum, who will be responsible for the general conduct of the business of the Forum and the coordination of its work. The Chairman of the Technical Forum will report to the Conference on the outcome of the technical presentation sessions and workshops that deal with substantive items, as well as other activities organized within the Technical Forum that are deemed important to the work of the Conference and will forward for consideration or information, as appropriate, reports of the various bodies of the Technical Forum.

3. The organizers of each workshop of the Technical Forum shall appoint a Chairman and any other officers for the workshop as may be deemed necessary for the conduct of its work.

Other subsidiary bodies

Rule 6

1. The Conference shall establish a Drafting Group, chaired by the Rapporteur-General of the Plenary and consisting of two designated representatives from each of the five regional groups, together with any additional representatives of the Member States invited by the Rapporteur-General to assist in the preparation of the full draft report.

2. The Conference, Main Committees and Chairman of the Technical Forum may establish such working groups as they deem necessary for the performance of their functions.

IV. Officers

General Committee

Rule 7

1. The General Committee of the Conference shall consist of the following ten officers: the President, Vice-President and Rapporteur-General of the Plenary; the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of Committee I; the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of Committee II; and the Chairman of the Technical Forum. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee.

2. The current bureau of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall continue as officers of the General Committee of the Conference in the respective functions of President, Vice-President and Rapporteur-General of the Plenary. The remaining seven officers will include the current Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and five other officers elected by the Conference from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, there shall be two officers from each of the following regional groups: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and other States (five from the current bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and five to be selected).

3. The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and shall ensure the coordination of its work.

V. Opening of the Conference

Role of the Secretary-General

Rule 8

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

2. The Secretary-General or his representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

3. The Secretary-General or his representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Decisions concerning the organization of work

Rule 9

1. The Conference shall, at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;[a]

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary bodies;[a]

(c) Adopt its agenda based upon the provisional agenda endorsed by the General Assembly at its fifty- second session;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.[a]

2. Recommendations resulting from pre-Conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted upon without further discussion.

VI. Decision-making

General Agreement

Rule 10

The Conference being a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Member States of the United Nations participating in the Conference shall, in accordance with the established practice of that Committee, endeavour on all occasions to ensure that the work of the Conference is conducted in such a way that the Conference will be able to reach agreement in its work and to adopt its report without the need for voting.

VII. Languages and records

Languages of the Conference

Rule 11

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation and recording services

Rule 12

1. Statements made in a language of the Conference during meetings of the Plenary or Main Committees shall be interpreted into other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if he/she provides for interpretation into one such language.

3. Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and its Main Committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided, no such recordings shall be made of the Technical Forum or the meetings of any working group.

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[a] Based upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee.

Official documents

Rule 13

1. All draft versions of the report of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies to be issued during the Conference, as well as final documents of the Conference for submission to the General Assembly, shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

2. Working papers intended as in-session documents for the Conference submitted in one of the languages of the Conference by Member States shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference in time for consideration by the Conference.

3. National papers shall be issued only in the languages of the original submission and shall be submitted by the Member States in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference. Abstracts of these papers, submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations, shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

4. Documents submitted by international organizations, as well as invited representatives of space-related industries, shall be governed by rules 14, 15 and 16.

VIII. Other participants and observers

Organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Rule 14

1. Organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall be permitted to deliver general statements in the Plenary. These statements shall be limited to seven minutes. However, the full texts of these statements may be circulated in writing.

2. These organizations shall also be permitted to circulate papers in the Plenary and Committee I and Committee II during their consideration of substantive agenda items. Time permitting, the chairpersons of Plenary, Committee I and Committee II may provide these organizations with the opportunity to make statements on substantive items and participate in discussions.

3. Papers of these organizations shall be issued only in the languages of the original submission and shall be submitted in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference. Abstracts of these papers, submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations, shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

International organizations not having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Rule 15

1. International organizations not having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space but invited to the Conference shall be permitted to submit general statements in writing to the Plenary.

2. These organizations shall also be permitted to circulate papers in the Plenary and Committee I and Committee II during their consideration of substantive agenda items. In addition, those organizations specifically called upon to prepare reports to the Conference shall be permitted to circulate those papers.

3. Papers of these organizations shall be issued only in the languages of the original submission and shall be submitted in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference.

Space-related industries

Rule 16

1. Upon invitation, representatives of space-related industries may make presentations at workshops and seminars organized in conjunction with the Conference. Such technical presentations may be made throughout the period of the Conference. The time allocated to such presentations may be limited to no more than thirty minutes.

2. A limited number of space-industry round-table discussions may be organized, with participation by high-level representatives of industry and heads or high-ranking officials of space agencies. As far as possible these should be scheduled at a time when most delegates, including state representatives, are able to attend.

3. Papers relating to these presentations and discussions shall be issued only in the languages of the original submission and shall be submitted in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference.

IX. Suspension of and amendments to the rules of procedure

Method of suspension

Rule 17

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 18

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.